

otherwise excellent plan, which in the case of orchids, *Sarracenia*, *Nepenthes*, *Drosera*, &c., is moreover beneficial to the growth of the plants, is almost valueless as against the species of *Limax* and *Agriolimax*, which are also to be met with in glass-houses, since these slugs can also reach the plants through the air. In this case the best defence will still be found in diligently searching for and collecting the animals, which must be done principally in the evening and early in the morning.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History)*. Vol. IV. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees of the British Museum. 1905.

THIS volume, by Mr. Eugene W. Oates and Capt. Savile G. Reid, deals with the eggs of the Families from the Timeliidæ to the Certhiidæ, and includes descriptions of some 620 species.

A feature of the book, as in the preceding volumes, is the great beauty of the plates. The selection of specimens illustrating the great range of variation which some species exhibit is a step in the right direction, but we venture to think the usefulness of the Catalogue would be immensely increased if a summary of the characteristic features of the eggs of each family were given, as well as a short account of the structural characters of the shell.

Again, it would have been helpful had special reference been made to the eggs of such species as are supposed to be peculiar to Great Britain, but represented on the Continent by scarcely distinguishable forms. In the case of the Long-tailed Tit (*Egithalus roseus*), for example, we find on comparison of the descriptions of the eggs of this bird and those of the Continental *Æ. caudatus* that they are distinguishable, while this is not the case with the eggs of our Coal-Titmouse (*Periparus britannicus*) and the Continental *P. ater*. Finally, whenever possible, the number of eggs in a clutch should be definitely stated, yet this appears in no single instance to have been done.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*The Echinoderm Name Calveria hystrix.*

*To the Editors of the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.'*

GENTLEMEN,—In laboriously proving the identity of *Korethraster hispidus* with *Calveria hystrix* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., Feb. 1906, p. 251) I was unconsciously treading in the footprints of a master. This identity was, without comment, assumed by Lovén in a footnote on p. 31 of his 'Études sur les Échinoïdées' (1875).

Yours, with apologies,

British Museum (Nat. Hist.),  
24th Feb., 1906.

F. A. BATHER.